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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                        NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
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                             ABILENE DIVISION
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
                Government,
 4
     VS.
                                         CAUSE NO. 1:23-CR-020-H-1
 5
     TERRELL CHARLES FRYAR,
                Defendant.
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                             SENTENCING HEARING
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                 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES WESLEY HENDRIX,
10
                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
                               APRIL 18, 2024
11
                               LUBBOCK, TEXAS
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                           APPEARANCES
      FOR THE GOVERNMENT:
15
     UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
     1205 TEXAS AVENUE, SUITE 700
16
     LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401
     BY: JEFFREY R. HAAG
17
18
      FOR THE DEFENDANT:
     LAW OFFICE OF MARK A. HOAK
19
     ATTORNEYS AT LAW
     1307-B WEST ABRAMS STREET, SUITE 211
20
     ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76013
21
     BY: MARK A. HOAK
22
      FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER: MECHELLE DANIEL, 1205 TEXAS
23
     AVENUE, LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401, (806) 744-7667.
24
      PROCEEDINGS RECORDED BY MECHANICAL STENOGRAPHY; TRANSCRIPT
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      PRODUCED BY COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION.
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## PROCEEDINGS 1 THE COURT: The Court calls the next case on the 2 docket, United States vs. Terrell Charles Fryar, 1:23-CR-020-1. 3 who is here on behalf of the defendant? 4 MR. HOAK: Mark Hoak, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Hoak. 6 For the United States? 7 Jeffrey Haag on behalf of the MR. HAAG: 8 United States. Ready to proceed, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Haaq. 10 Mr. Fryar, good morning. 11 12 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning. THE COURT: Would you please tell me your full 13 14 name, sir. THE DEFENDANT: Terrell Charles Fryar. 15 16 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Fryar. This hearing follows the defendant's guilty plea 17 and request that the Court accept the plea agreement. That 18 plea agreement contains a Rule 11(c)(1)(C) agreement for a 19 sentence that would not be able to exceed 188 months, or 20 approximately a little over 15 and a half years. 21 Mr. Fryar, you previously appeared before 22 Magistrate Judge Parker back in late September. You entered a 23 plea of guilty to Count 1 of the superseding information that 24 charged you with distribution and possession with intent to 25

distribute methamphetamine.

Judge Parker found that your guilty plea was knowing and voluntary and supported by a sufficient factual basis, so he recommended that I accept the guilty plea. And I did do that. I did reserve judgment on whether to accept the plea agreement. On October 17th, I entered an order accepting your guilty plea, and I did adjudge you guilty of the crime alleged in the superseding information.

The statutory sentencing range here, sir, or the total possible range of punishment, is a term of imprisonment of not more than 20 years; a fine of \$1 million, or both; and a period of supervised release of at least 3 years, and up to life.

I inform the parties that I intend to deny Docket Number 72. Docket Number 72 is simply just not justified in light of everything that's before me.

So by my calculations—and then I'll hear the parties out on this if they'd like to be heard. But by my calculations, the advisory guideline range typically would be 235 to 293 months' imprisonment. But because the statutory maximum here is 240 months, the advisory guideline range becomes 235 to 240 months' imprisonment.

But if I were to accept your plea agreement, I would be required to impose a sentence of no greater than 188 months, which represents about a 20-percent reduction from

that advisory guideline range. 1 I do have concerns about the (c)(1)(C) agreement. 2 I am required by statute to impose a sentence that is 3 sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the 4 purposes of sentencing set forth in Section 3553(a)(2), and to 5 consider all the sentencing factors in that statute, which I 6 have and will do. 7 In particular, the sentence must reflect the 8 seriousness of the offense; it has to promote respect for the 9 law, provide a just punishment, afford adequate deterrence, and 10 protect the public. 11 would the parties like to be heard before I make my 12 final decision on whether to accept or reject the plea 13 14 agreement? Mr. Haag? MR. HAAG: Your Honor, we believe we have fully 15 16 briefed the reasons for the Rule 11(c)(1)(C) agreement in Documents 65 and 72, and we just rely on that argument. 17 THE COURT: Okay. And I have read those and will 18 consider them. 19 20 Mr. Hoak? We join in with the government. 21 MR. HOAK: argument on that point, Judge. 22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Hoak. 23 The Court concludes and finds that the capped 24 25 188-month sentence that would be required by the plea agreement

would not be sufficient to capture the 3553(a) factors. The offense here is serious and significant. The evidence I have before me regarding your conduct while on pretrial detention is also particularly concerning.

Regarding the offense, officers conducted multiple controlled buys of methamphetamine from you, and they discovered nearly 2 kilograms of methamphetamine (actual) in your vehicle during the traffic stop. That conduct comes after a prior federal conviction and sentence for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, and for that prior federal conviction, you were originally sentenced to 151 months' imprisonment.

I wish that sentence had deterred you from additional criminal conduct. It obviously didn't. It was insufficient to deter you.

And I am, again, particularly concerned with your conduct while incarcerated for this offense; in particular, the evidence related to your interactions with C.G. The brazenness of those actions continuing while you are awaiting federal sentencing demonstrates your dangerousness to the community and the need to further deter you and protect the public.

Finally, the bottom end of your advisory guideline range, by my calculations anyway, is 235 months, which is significantly above the top of the sentence that I can impose under the (c)(1)(C) agreement. I do recognize the

circumstances pointed out by the United States in those documents that were referenced, but I do not find that there is substantially mitigating circumstances here or circumstances to justify the plea agreement in light of everything that I have before me.

So after careful review, I inform the parties that the plea agreement is rejected. It would not adequately or reasonably capture all of the 3553(a) sentencing factors. A sentence of up to 15 and a half years would be a downward departure or variance from the guidelines, and I find that it would be unreasonable under the circumstances.

All right. So, Mr. Fryar, thank you for your patience with that. I'm required to explain that to all of you. I now need to tell you some of your rights under the rules that we use here.

You do have the right to withdraw your guilty plea because I have rejected your plea agreement. So I inform you that, because I have just rejected your plea agreement, I'm not required to follow it, so I can dispose of your case less favorably than the plea agreement contemplated.

Now, Mr. Hoak, how does your client intend to proceed today? Does he plan to withdraw his plea of guilty?

MR. HOAK: We intend to proceed, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Fryar, is that right?

Do you plan to proceed with your plea of guilty?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 1 THE COURT: Okay. Is anybody making you do that or 2 forcing you into that decision? 3 No. sir. 4 THE DEFENDANT: THE COURT: All right. Typically, because the 5 defendant has not withdrawn a quilty plea, I would issue a new 6 order setting sentencing. But I've been informed that the 7 parties wish to proceed with sentencing today. 8 Is that right, Mr. Hoak? 9 10 MR. HOAK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Is that right, Mr. Haag? 11 12 MR. HAAG: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. All right. Then the Court will 13 14 proceed with sentencing today. All right. Mr. Hoak, have you had an opportunity 15 16 to read the presentence report and discuss it with your client? MR. HOAK: Yes, sir. 17 THE COURT: Mr. Fryar, is that right? Have you had 18 an opportunity to read your presentence report and discuss it 19 20 with your attorney? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. THE COURT: You understand that we're here so the 22 Court can decide what sentence to impose? 23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 24 25 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Hoak, do you have any

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objections to the presentence report?
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                            No, sir. No, sir.
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                 MR. HOAK:
                 THE COURT: All right. Any objections from the
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     United States?
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                 MR. HAAG:
                            No, Your Honor.
                 THE COURT: Okay. I understand that the parties
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      are asking the Court to use the lower drug amount of
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      2,033.95 grams of methamphetamine (actual).
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                 Is that right, Mr. Hoak?
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                 MR. HOAK: That's correct.
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                 THE COURT: That's correct, Mr. Haag?
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                 MR. HAAG: That is correct, Your Honor.
                 THE COURT: All right. The Court will do that. I
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      think that's a reasonable request. Initially, the government
     believed that that lower amount would result in an advisory
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      guideline range of 32, but a new acceptance was filed by the
     United States recognizing that this is methamphetamine
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      (actual), not a mixture containing methamphetamine, and so the
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      PSR correctly has the offense level at 36, with an advisory
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     guideline range of 235 to 240 months.
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                 Is that right, Mr. Haag?
                 MR. HAAG: That is correct, Your Honor.
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                 THE COURT: Is that correct, Mr. Hoak?
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                 MR. HOAK: Yes, sir.
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                 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, hearing no
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objections, the Court adopts the PSR's factual findings and 1 legal conclusions as my own. 2 The statutory sentencing range, or the total 3 possible range of punishment here, Mr. Fryar, is a term of 4 5 imprisonment of not more than 20 years; a fine of \$1 million, or both; and a period of supervised release of at least 6 3 years, and up to life. 7 Under the guidelines manual, we have a total 8 offense level of 35; your criminal history category is IV. 9 And again, typically, that would be a sentencing--advisory 10 sentencing range of 235 to 293, but we're capped at 240, so 11 your advisory range becomes 235 to 240. 12 Again, I am denying Docket Number 72. 13 14 Mr. Hoak, I'd be glad to hear any evidence or argument you have on behalf of your client. 15 16 MR. HOAK: We have none. THE COURT: All right. Mr. Fryar, I have reviewed 17 all these materials. I'm familiar with this case. I know it's 18 the first time you and I are seeing each other, but I am ready 19 to proceed. 20 You do have the right to tell me anything you would 21 like to tell me. You don't have to say anything, and I won't 22 hold it against you if you don't. 23

Is there anything you'd like to say, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. I'm really nervous, but--

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THE COURT: Take your time. 1 THE DEFENDANT: I just want the Court to know 2 Excuse me. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. 3 that--My-- I don't know. I don't know. I'm just--I'm 4 5 really ashamed of myself for being here. When I was released from prison last time, I had really began to build a good life. 6 And there was some counseling and things that I got while I was 7 at Lexington. I could really understand my addiction for the 8 first time in my life. And I really built a good life when I 9 got out. I really did. I had a chance, and-- I'm so sorry. 10 Some traumatic things happened, and it led me back 11 into my addiction, and I couldn't find my way out. And--and--I 12 mean, it's my fault. I was too weak to get out of it. And I 13 14 should have found a way out and I just couldn't do it, and my addiction got the best of me and led me back here. And I just 15 16 hope that I have time to build my life back again. THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. 17 appreciate that statement, and I will take it into account. 18 All right. Mr. Haag? 19 20 MR. HAAG: Yes, Your Honor. Your Honor, we would ask that the Court dismiss the 21 indictment in this case and proceed to sentencing on Count 1 of 22 the superseding information. 23 THE COURT: That's granted. 24 25 MR. HAAG: Yes, Your Honor.

And I make this argument fully understanding the 1 Court has rejected the (c)(1)(C). But we still do persist in 2 our recommendation for a sentence not to exceed 188 months for 3 the reasons that are set forth in Documents 65 and 72, and we 4 5 continue with that recommendation, Your Honor. THE COURT: In essence--again, not to reveal any 6 information in those documents, but, in essence, you made a 7 deal; you're sticking by it regardless of new facts and 8 circumstances that came to light after you made that deal? 9 That's correct, Your Honor. 10 MR. HAAG: government's opinion is that we make a deal and we stand by 11 12 that deal no matter what happens. And sometimes we make a deal and we find out things later, but again, that's sort of the 13 14 risk that you run and the risk you assume when you make a deal. Sometimes those things turn out well; sometimes they don't. 15 16 But we still believe that, based upon everything that's in those two documents, a sentence not to exceed 188 months is 17 appropriate. 18 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Haaq. 19 20 Mr. Haag, do you know any reason why the Court cannot lawfully impose sentence at this time? 21 No, Your Honor. 22 MR. HAAG: THE COURT: Mr. Hoak? 23 24 MR. HOAK: No. sir. 25 THE COURT: I am required by statute to impose a

sentence that is sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes of sentencing set forth in Section 3553(a)(2), and to consider all of the sentencing factors listed in that statute, which I have done.

I've considered here the nature and circumstances of your offense. And in 2022, investigators used a confidential informant to conduct a controlled buy from you at your residence on two occasions. For the first buy, the informant obtained 83.65 grams of methamphetamine (actual) in exchange for \$1200. The second buy, you sold a little over 108 grams of methamphetamine (actual).

After those buys, investigators obtained a court order eventually authorizing the installation of a tracking device on your vehicle after they learned that you would frequently travel from Big Spring to Fort Worth to obtain methamphetamine. Officers conducted a traffic stop eventually on your vehicle and they discovered two gallon-sized bags containing 1,842 grams of methamphetamine (actual), along with a little over \$3,000 in cash.

You admitted that you had provided a supplier \$12,000 in exchange for the 2 kilograms of methamphetamine and had bought—and you sought, pardon me, to buy Percocet pills with the cash found in the vehicle.

That is a serious offense to say the least. And that much methamphetamine, that amount, is particularly

concerning.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: The type of narcotic here is particularly addictive and destructive.

It's especially concerning in light of another factor that I consider, which is your history and your characteristics. This is not the first time you've been involved with methamphetamine. It's not the first time you've been convicted of a federal methamphetamine distribution-type offense.

In 2007, you were convicted of conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and possession of pseudoephedrine. That was in the Midland Division of the Western District of Texas. And initially, you received 151 months, so a significant sentence in that case. You get out in 2016 on supervised release, and supervised release does expire.

Prior convictions also include escape while arrested or confined, possession of a controlled substance, and failure to report an injury/accident at once.

It is-- I understand why you would be embarrassed to be here today. There were a lot of resources provided to you, like you mentioned, and we certainly hoped for better. Unfortunately, you were either unwilling or incapable of avoiding this kind of behavior, and this is very serious

behavior, and I can't ignore your repeat criminal conduct, nor can I ignore your conduct after being incarcerated in this case. I won't go into detail on the record, but your conduct while incarcerated just demonstrates a complete disregard for the law, an incredible danger to society, on top of this already very concerning set of circumstances.

And I did consider the need and I do consider the need to impose a sentence that does reflect the seriousness of your offense.

I have to promote respect for the law, and at this point, you have shown little, if any, respect for the law.

I have to give a just punishment, afford adequate deterrence, and protect the public.

All of those factors weigh heavily here. So, after considering those factors, the purposes of sentencing, and the parties' arguments, I have determined that a sentence of 240 months is sufficient, but not greater than necessary.

I believe that the guideline calculations announced today were correct, but, to the extent they were incorrectly calculated, I would have imposed the same sentence without regard to that range, and I would have done so for the same reasons, in light of the 3553(a) factors.

Upon release, you're going to be on supervised release for a term of 3 years. While on release, you shall comply with your mandatory conditions of release listed in your

presentence report and in Section 3583(d). 1 Mr. Hoak, can you confirm that you and your client 2 received and discussed my written notice of intent to impose 3 the standard and special conditions? 4 5 MR. HOAK: I believe so, Your Honor, yes. Yes. THE COURT: You did? 6 You did review those with your client? 7 I believe--MR. HOAK: 8 THE DEFENDANT: I believe so. 9 10 Can I ask--THE COURT: Give me one second. We'll take it one 11 12 thing at a time. Mr. Hoak, did you file back the copy of the notice 13 14 on the docket? MR. HOAK: Yeah, I believe we did, Your Honor. 15 16 THE COURT: Okay. Well, then, we'll check. Give me one second. 17 (PAUSE) 18 THE COURT: No, you did not. Okay. Mr. Hoak, you 19 can approach. I'm going to hand you the original. Why don't 20 you and your client have a seat at counsel table. You can 21 review that document. Your client can ask you a question. 22 Let me know when you are complete. 23 THE DEFENDANT: Can I say something real quick? 24 25 THE COURT: Talk to your lawyer and then he can

speak to me. 1 (MR. HOAK AND DEFENDANT CONFERRING PRIVATELY) 2 THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Hoak. Can you now confirm 3 that you and your client received and discussed my written 4 5 notice of intent to impose the standard and special conditions? 6 MR. HOAK: Yes, sir. Okay. All right. Do you have any 7 THE COURT: objections to those? 8 MR. HOAK: No, sir. 9 THE COURT: Hearing no objections, they are adopted 10 They will be included in my judgment. I find that they 11 12 are reasonable and they relate to all of the appropriate statutory considerations, and they impose no greater 13 14 deprivation of liberty than reasonably necessary under the 15 statute. 16 Mr. Hoak, was there something else that you needed to raise from your client? 17 MR. HOAK: Just we would ask the Court to consider 18 placement in the Lexington facility--federal facility. That's 19 where the defendant had resided before and said he got some 20 exceptional counseling. So if the Court could recommend that, 21 we would appreciate it. 22 THE COURT: Is that in Kentucky? 23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 24 25 MR. HOAK: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE DEFENDANT: And it also--it also keeps me away from any of the people that I've been involved in as far as the life that I've been involved in. It allows me to get away from that and that influence.

THE COURT: All right. I will make a nonbinding placement recommendation for FCI Lexington. I am going to add, or-- Give me one second.

(PAUSE)

THE COURT: I'll make a nonbinding placement recommendation for FCI Lexington or an appropriate BOP facility not in or near Louisiana.

0kay--

MR. HOAK: Judge, one final matter--thing I'd like to address. Apparently Mr. Fryar was in state custody prior to the federal warrant going out, and I believe that was about a year, but we would ask the Court to consider that in federal time served.

THE COURT: Well, I did consider his history and circumstances in fashioning this sentence. I'm not authorized to credit anything. That's for the Bureau of Prisons to do. That's outside of my purview. I did consider all of his criminal history in fashioning this sentence, so that is rejected.

I've been informed that FCI Lexington is a medical

facility, Mr. Hoak. Give me one second. 1 (PAUSE) 2 THE COURT: Okay. It will be FCI Lexington, if 3 appropriate--FMC, pardon me--if appropriate, or an appropriate 4 5 BOP facility not in or near Louisiana. I'm waiving a fine. 6 You must, however, pay the mandatory special 7 assessment of \$100. That's due and payable immediately. 8 I will recommend that, while incarcerated, you 9 receive appropriate substance abuse and mental health 10 treatment, but I did not lengthen your term of imprisonment to 11 12 promote rehabilitation. You do have the right to appeal your conviction and 13 14 your sentence. If you'd like to appeal, you need to file a notice of appeal within 14 days of today in this court. If you 15 16 want to do that, just tell your attorney. He's very familiar with that process, and he can get that done for you. 17 Mr. Hoak, you are retained in this case. 18 Right? MR. HOAK: That's correct, Your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Although your counsel is retained, if 20 appropriate, he can ask that the costs of the appeal go to the 21 United States, and not to you. 22 Do you understand those appellate rights, sir? 23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 24 25 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Mr. Hoak, anything

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further from the defense?

Well, one matter, Judge. MR. HOAK: No. And your court personnel told me the answer, but I'm going to go ahead and request it anyway.

THE COURT: If she told you the answer, it's the right answer.

MR. HOAK: Well, she told me what you usually like I'd like to have the Court enter an order that I be permitted to withdraw from this matter.

THE COURT: How many years have you been practicing?

MR. HOAK: Quite a few, Judge, and this is about the last one.

THE COURT: Well, then, you, of all people, should know that the courtroom deputy is the most powerful person in the room. And if she said that the Court doesn't provide those kinds of forms and that we don't do that for you and that you're supposed to file a motion, then that's right.

I can confirm, although I have an Article III commission, I still believe that she knows more than me and is more powerful than I am. That's the person you should be most kind to and most gentle to and most understanding of.

So she was right. We're not going to do that. You can file a motion if you think that it's appropriate. I'm not going to issue a sua sponte order, and we don't hand forms out

to lawyers. I'm sure you can understand that we're not 1 permitted to advise people on how to practice law. 2 3 MR. HOAK: I understand. THE COURT: There are just certain boundaries that 4 5 we have to follow. So if you would like to withdraw, I'd be glad to 6 consider that motion. Don't get me wrong. Just file that 7 I would advise you, anyway, that most attorneys, when 8 they'd like to withdraw, most of them file a notice of an 9 appeal for their client just out of an abundance of caution. 10 There's some really good defense lawyers behind you. They can 11 12 give you some advice if you need it. Anything else, sir? 13 14 MR. HOAK: No, sir. THE COURT: All right. Mr. Haag, anything else 15 16 from the United States? MR. HAAG: No, Your Honor. Thank you. 17 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Fryar, at this time, 18 you are remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal, 19 and I do wish you good luck, sir. 20 21 (END OF HEARING) 22 23 24 25

I, Mechelle Daniel, Federal Official Court Reporter in and for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, do hereby certify pursuant to Section 753, Title 28, United States Code, that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the stenographically reported proceedings held in the above-entitled matter and that the transcript page format is in conformance with the regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States. /s/ Mechelle Daniel \_\_\_\_\_\_DATE JULY 12, 2024 MECHELLE DANIEL, CSR #3549 FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER 2.4